

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Applicants respectfully request that the Claims be amended
so as to read as follows:**

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1. (Currently Amended) An integrated unit, comprising:
- a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
 - a detecting portion for detecting reflection of said emitted laser beam;
 - optical elements for controlling the pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof, said optical elements including at least a diffraction element for diffracting said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof;
 - a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion; ; and
 - a transparent optical compensation film for circularizing the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized, said transparent compensation film being formed integrally integral with one of said optical elements or with an end of said casing so as to be disposed in said optical pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof.
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2. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein said optical compensation film is a high polymer film serving a function of changing polarizing state of the laser beam.

3. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein said optical compensation film is attached onto said diffraction element.

4. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, including said optical compensation film inside said diffraction element.

5. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, wherein said casing and said optical compensation film are integrated.

6. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 1, including a cap member, provided to said casing, for closing an opening.

7. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 6, wherein said cap member and an optical compensation film are integrated.

8. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 3, wherein
said diffraction element has a diffraction pattern for
diffracting a laser beam, said diffraction pattern being
formed on said optical compensation film.

9. (As originally filed) The integrated unit according to claim 3, wherein
said diffraction element has a diffraction pattern for
diffracting a laser beam, said optical compensation film
being formed on said diffraction pattern.

10 (Currently Amended) An optical pickup for reading information on an optical
disk by condensing a laser beam onto the optical disk, comprising:
a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
a detecting portion for detecting reflection of said emitted laser
beam;
optical elements for controlling the pathways defined by said
emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof, said optical
elements including at least a diffraction element for
diffracting said emitted laser beam and said reflection
thereof;
a casing accommodating said laser beam source and
said detecting portion;
an integrated unit in which said diffraction element and
said casing are integrated;

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an objective lens for condensing the laser beam onto the optical disk; and
a transparent optical compensation film for circularizing the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized, said transparent compensation film being formed integrally integral with one of said optical elements or with an end of said casing so as to be disposed in said optical pathways defined by said emitted laser beam and said reflection thereof.

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11. (Currently Amended) An optical pickup for reading information recorded on an optical disk by condensing a laser beam onto the optical disk, comprising:

a laser beam source for emitting a laser beam;
a detecting portion for detecting a reflected light;
a diffraction element for diffracting the laser beam;
a casing accommodating said laser beam source and said detecting portion;
an integrated unit in which said diffraction element and said casing are integrated;
an objective lens for condensing the laser beam onto the optical disk; and

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a reflection mirror for changing a direction of the laser beam; wherein
said reflection mirror ~~and is integrated with~~ a transparent optical compensation film, said transparent optical compensation film being adapted to circularize the polarization of light passing therethrough such that light exiting therefrom is circularly or elliptically polarized ~~are integrated~~.
